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# WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BECOME A RAT? ANIMAL PHENOMENOLOGY THROUGH UEXKÜLL AND DELEUZE & GUATTARI

BIOPOLITICS ANIMAL, DELEUZE/GUATTARI, UMWELT

We respond to a phenomenological challenge set forth in Thomas Nagel's "What Is It Like To Be a Bat?," namely, to seek a method for obtaining a phenomenological description of non-humananimal experience faithful to an animal's first-person subjective perspective. First, we examine "translational" strategies employing empathy and communication with animals. Then we turn to a "transpositional" strategy from Uexküll's Umwelt theory in which we objectively

determine the components of a non-human animal's subjective world of experience and then map those coordinates onto our own subjective world. While this method gives us partial access to the animal's "perception-world" aspect of its Umwelt, it does not inform us about what it is like to live in the interactive, "effect-world" aspect. To better overcome this limitation, we add a "transformational" approach derived from Deleuze's & Guattari's notion of "becoming -animal," in which we take on an animal's manners and capacities for interacting with the other objects and creatures in its world.

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